



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

Memorandum

To: NWCG Members

From: NWCG Chair

Date: June 6, 2006

Subject: Firefighter Safety Stand Down

On **June 21, 2006**, thousands of fire departments across the nation and Canada will “stand down” for firefighter safety. The NWCG is joining with the International Association Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and other groups in supporting this call for safety. I urge you to make a special effort to focus on safety that day as well. Because the responsibilities of NWCG Members are complex and far reaching, your agency may not be able to “stand down” as are some firefighting agencies.

However, through a variety of methods, I encourage you to heighten your agency’s safety awareness that day through a tailgate safety session or similar brief program. This year, the focus is on emergency vehicle operations – specifically, seatbelt usage and safe driving through intersections.

The message is simple and direct: Wear your seatbelt and stop at intersections.

Attached are a few additional discussion topics you may wish to consider for tailgate safety sessions or similar programs on June 21st. You may also wish to visit the following web sites for additional information and ideas. NWCG Safety and Health Working Team (SHWT) at <http://www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt/index2.htm> or the Six Minutes for Safety Program at http://www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/dsp_sixminutes.php or the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) at www.iafc.org/standdown.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in this important national safety effort.

Attachment A

cc: WT Chairs
GACG Chairs

Attachment A

June 21, 2006 Suggested Wildland Safety Topics

Moment of silence for Line of Duty Deaths

- Review and explain purpose at a Tailgate Safety Session
- Review the Watch Out Situations, Fire Orders, Risk Management Process, or LCES, etc
- Pass out copies on the Incident Response Pocket Guide (PMS#461/NFES#1077)
- Review the 2005 NWCG SAFETYGRAM (www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt)

All other agency activities (forest health, unit management, public education, etc.) should also focus on safety and health

Fire Line Safety

Review agency Standard Operating Procedures and Fire Manuals

- Review individual knowledge of communication equipment and procedures
- Review adequacy of current communication system as well as individual units

Personal Protective Equipment

Review fire suppression personal protective equipment

- Check all PPE, for obvious defects, cleaning and maintenance needs.
- Red-tag all equipment with defects and remove from service.
- Emphasize use of eye and hearing protection

Apparatus and Equipment Check

Check all fire suppression equipment and other equipment stowed on transports and other vehicles including all aircraft.

- Address MANDATORY seat belt use, driving with headlights "on" and use of emergency lights
- Review roadside response protocols for engines and response vehicles
- Conduct mandatory buddy inspections of all vehicles

Injury and infectious Disease Safety

Review agency SOPs and protocols

- Address proper PPE
- Address proper hand washing and other universal protocols

Training

Review minimum training requirements (fire operations, driving, etc.)

Check and ensure employees have received proper vehicle training and that it is documented, e.g. defensive driving, CDL, EOVC, ATV training

Address wellness fitness training including how to stay fit year round

Behavioral Health

Review and address agency's EAPs, CISM, and other related programs.

Go to 6 Minutes for Safety at www.nifc.gov/sixminutes or the Safety Stand Down Web site at www.iafc.org/standdown to select a different safety topic.